



## SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE POLICY

Sexual assault is a crime that is not unique to any gender, race, or age. Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force or abuse of authority; or when the victim does not or cannot consent. The newly revised Marine Corps Order (MCO) contains guidance for identifying, reporting, and addressing sexual assault.

Sexual assault will not be tolerated. Failure to report or ignoring sexual assault incidents will have damaging consequences for both victims and this organization.

Where cause exists, appropriate legal and/or administrative action will be taken against violators.

Victims will be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect, and will receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services. Care will be given to ensure the identity of a victim is released only to those who have a need-to-know (i.e. myself, PMO, or NCIS). Victim safety is paramount at all times. Victims who choose to make a Restricted Report in accordance with the reference will have that choice honored to the fullest extent. Victims who have the courage to report must feel confident their personal safety will be protected and they will not be re-victimized. Marines and Sailors who are sexually assaulted are physically, mentally, and emotionally traumatized—they deserve to be treated with sensitivity and care.

Alcohol use is frequently cited in sexual assault incidents. Irresponsible consumption of alcohol places a Marine at increased risk. It is imperative Marines take care of each other and not allow a fellow Marine to be victimized due to intoxication.

Leaders at all levels will take immediate action to become familiar with the contents of MCO 1752.5B. Commanders will ensure all members of their command are briefed on its contents and receive annual refresher training. Marine Corps Community Services (Marine and Family Programs), as well as the Installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) and/or Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA), will be utilized to assist the command in fulfilling training responsibilities as well as providing assistance to victims.

"The Commander's Protocol for Responding to Allegations of Sexual Assault," found in Appendix C of MCO 1752.5B is established as the standard operating procedures (SOP) within (command/unit) for responding to allegations of sexual assault.

Sexual assault is a complete and total contradiction to the core values we as Marines embrace. Elimination of sexual assault will take a dedicated community effort. I challenge every leader and individual to accept responsibility for achieving this goal. Our Marine family deserves nothing less than our complete dedication to this cause.

Ginger E. Beals

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